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# The Arlington Advocate

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## DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY



The Arlington Chamber of Commerce's summer concert series wrapped up last night. Above, during last week's performance, Abigail Cohen, 2 1/2, dances to the sounds of Revolutionary Snake Ensemble on the Jefferson Cutter House lawn. Bottom, Revolutionary Snake Ensemble's Andrew Hickman, Ken Field and Jon Fraser perform. Left, Jessica Umanoff, 3, pairs up with Roger Seymour.



## Senate looks to increase state aid

BY ROBERTO SCALESE  
STAFF WRITER

Arlington could stand to gain \$540,000 in one-time funds under a Senate proposal to temporarily change the school funding formula. Not everyone is happy with this plan.

Sen. Robert Havern (D-Arlington) said the proposed changes would add a community's median income into the school funding formula, known as Chapter 70 funding. The change would cover the current fiscal year and the increased costs would be covered by the state's budget surplus.

"It will mean about \$50 a kid," said Havern. "It will mean about an additional \$550,000 for Arlington."

Adding income helps communities that have lots of hot

## Long-term increase proposed

BY ROBERTO SCALESE  
STAFF WRITER

While the Senate has passed a proposal to increase school funding for this year, another plan for a long-term increase in per-pupil funding is still in the works.

The proposal would send an extra \$25 for every student in a school district. The plan would run for 10 years and has a price tag of around \$280 million, said state Sen. Robert

SEE MINIMUM AID, PAGE 15

SEE FUNDING, PAGE 15

## Robbins Farm advocates envision mural at park

BY ROBERTO SCALESE  
STAFF WRITER

Picture this: A mural at Robbins Farm Park. It sounds nice, but not everyone sees a pretty picture.

According to Friends of Robbins Farm Park member Jen Rothenberg, painting a mural on a 30-foot wall near the playground is a chance to beautify the park while giving kids an opportunity to take ownership of the space.

"We're still in kind of the early stages," said Rothenberg.

The mural would resemble a traditional New England wall, with a trim of flowers along the bottom edge. The artist who designed the mural, John Coles, has done similar

work in other towns, she said.

"He came up with the design and came up with a way to create a stencil for it so we can include some of the kids from the Brackett School," said Rothenberg. The school sits across the street from the park. "The idea is to get people involved to beautify that area."

The plan would allow neighbors, children and parents to interact and add some personal character to the space, which was refurbished last year through both town funds and fund-raising efforts by the Friends.

Rothenberg said the group would maintain the mural and take care of any graffiti or damage over the years. (The

wall was recently tagged by vandals.)

"We would take care of it," said Rothenberg. "What's outrageous to me is that there's a commissioner who has concerns about our commitment to the park. To me, that's unbelievable considering the amount of effort we've put into the last four years."

Commissioner Tom Caccavaro said he doesn't want anyone to paint the wall at Robbins Farm Park or anywhere else in town.

"I'm bucking this because it's a concrete wall and you should never put anything on a masonry wall," said Caccavaro. "It will never come off. Who is going to maintain it if it's vandalized?"

The problem is you can't just erase the art from the wall if there's a problem, said Caccavaro. If vandals paint over the art or if the image falls into disrepair, it will have to be fixed and that costs money. Taking the paint off would require sandblasting and that would ruin the walls' finish, he added.

"The murals you see are on walls that are privately owned. They're not public. There's no money for this and I don't want the taxpayers to have to pay for this stuff," said Caccavaro.

Caccavaro said he knows those advocating for the mural are well-meaning and sincere in their efforts, but there may come a time when they

aren't there to advocate for the mural.

"I think it's beautiful and they would do a great job, but I don't want to go that route," said Caccavaro. "Ten years from now, who is going to maintain this? These people, who are very sincere, may not be here in 10 years."

The issue isn't just this one wall at the park; all concrete or brick walls should be left alone, he said.

The town has not allowed painting walls elsewhere, he said, because vandals may see it as a sign to do their own painting.

"Once you start painting something, everyone will paint everything," said Caccavaro.

## Children's group takes sail on 'Tom Sawyer'

BY BROOKE LEISTER  
STAFF WRITER

When Colleen Rua read the script for "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," she was struck by how the themes and familial settings mirror life today.

"I was drawn to it because it's really about family. It takes place in 1840, but if you look at the families, they're like the families of today. They're not really traditional. It's about community," said Rua, director of the upcoming Arlington Children's Theatre production of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer."

The 27-year-old Medford resident has her hands full juggling two casts of 46 children, aged 7 to 16. "Tom Sawyer," which runs at the Regent Theatre July 30 through Aug. 7, is ACT's biggest production of year.

While many of the children were familiar with the story, few knew the songs and dance moves prevalent in the relatively new musical. For Rua, who is pursuing a master's degree in theater education from Emerson College, the difficulties lie in crowd control.

During a recent rehearsal, the basement of the First Baptist Church was abuzz with activity. The costumer rifled

through a rolling rack of costumes on stage, while a small group of actors practiced their dance routine. Children gathered around the piano to practice musical numbers and parent volunteers helped construct the sets.

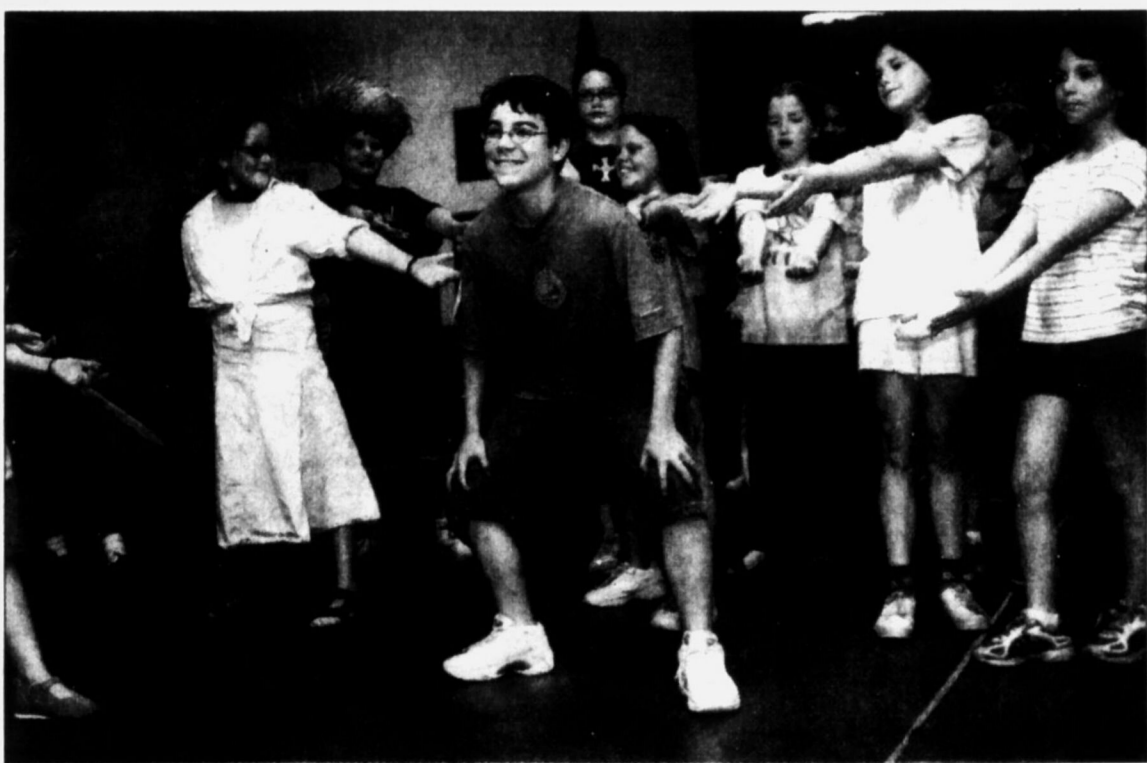
Sarah Smith of Winchester decided to join the "Tom Sawyer" cast because she knew she would enjoy the experience. The 9-year-old has performed in ACT productions of "Peter Pan," "Oliver" and "Alice in Wonderland," as well as several other shows. She plays Lucy Harper in the upcoming show.

"I've been in these before and I know they're really fun. I knew a lot of my friends would be in it and I

love acting," she said. Smith was also drawn to the adventurous spirit of the famous Mark Twain story.

"I'm an adventurous person," she said. "I like to climb trees and play adventurous games."

Catherine Grimm, an Arlington resident who plays Amy Lawrence, enjoys the excitement of acting on stage. Like Smith, she is also an ACT veteran having participated in "Peter Pan," "Oliver," "Alice in Wonderland" and "The Patchwork Girl of Oz."



Patrick Brady is surrounded by the Arlington Children's Theatre cast as he rehearses as Tom in "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer."

"Near the end, you don't know what's going to happen," Grimm, 11, said of "Tom Sawyer." "It's the thrill that gets you."

Patrick Brady, who plays the title character, knew he wanted to continue with ACT after participating in last summer's production of "Oliver." The Medford resident, who was surprised to learn he would play the title role, enjoys the singing.

"I like the singing a lot. It's really fun to be Tom. I get to be on stage a lot and sing and dance," said Brady, 11.

For the LaPan family, "Tom Sawyer" marks their fourth summer production with ACT. Andre, 9, and Nicole, 12, both have roles in the play. Their mother, Gretchen is a co-producer.

"They're both very dramatic," LaPan said of her two children. "My daughter always wanted to act — that's what brought us here. What's kept us here is it is very family-oriented."

The theater was founded in 1991 to create a positive theater experience for children ages 7 to 18. The all-volunteer organi-

zation relies heavily on parents and families who help bring the productions to life through costumes, lighting, makeup and set construction.

Participation in an ACT production is open to any child, from any town, who is willing to work with the directors and fellow actors. No prior theatrical experience is required.

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" runs at the Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., July 30 through Aug. 7. Tickets cost \$8. For groups of 20 or more, tickets cost \$6. For more information, call 781-860-0742.

## No issues with DNC

BY ROBERTO SCALESE  
STAFF WRITER

Where were the cars?

Everyone — commuters, locals, tourists, police, secret service, federal, state and local officials and convention planners — expected the road closures planned for the Democratic National Convention would cause massive traffic tie-ups around the Boston area.

Warnings were sent over the airwaves. Signs were posted along roadways. Police were stationed at critical intersections to ensure emergency vehicles could get through. The mayor of Medford hired a Caribbean band to play along Route 60 to soothe the frayed nerves of delayed drivers.

On Monday, however, the disastrous crush of cars never came. In fact, roads were so clear the closure of I-93 was delayed by a few hours because there was no need for the advanced closure.

According to Arlington Police Chief Fred Ryan, communities planned for the worst-case scenario. When that didn't happen, everyone switched to Plan B.

"We had an operational center for the region. Each municipality in the region had its plan; everything was imple-

SEE TRAFFIC, PAGE 15

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# FOR THE RECORD

## POLICE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Police Department log. The log is available to the public.

### Monday, July 19

- At 3:03 p.m., an Old Mystic Street resident reported credit card fraud.
- At 10:26 p.m., police received a call from a Hibbert Street resident regarding annoying telephone calls.
- At 10:36 p.m., police responded to a Summer Street business after a burglar alarm sounded. The alleged burglar did not enter the building.
- At 11:06 p.m., a woman reported a man tried to grab her pocketbook on an East Arlington street. She defended herself and the suspect fled the area in an older-model motor vehicle.
- At 11:25 p.m., police received a call concerning youths ringing doorbells. Suspects were identified and officers spoke to them.

### Tuesday, July 20

- At 8:32 a.m., a Brantwood Road resident reported a vehicle's driver's side window was smashed.
- At 8:36 a.m., police responded to Appleton Street after more than \$1,000 worth of tools was stolen from a construction site.
- At 9:35 a.m., police received a call from a Massachusetts Avenue business after a man tried to steal cigarettes.
- At 11:59 p.m., a Melvin Road resident called police after noticing a car passing through the area frequently. Police located the vehicle and found there was no problem.

### Wednesday, July 21

- At 6:52 a.m., an Old Colony Lane resident reported larceny by check.
- At 12:02 p.m., a Summer Street resident called police

after someone damaged a railing.

### Thursday, July 22

- At 12:13 a.m., a Hillcrest Street resident called police after seeing two men with flashlights near a home. Police were unable to locate the suspects.
- At 8:32 a.m., police received a call from Irving Street after four chairs were stolen from a porch.
- At 9:59 a.m., police responded to Menotomy Rocks Park after two women reported a man tried to expose himself. They were walking their dogs when a man approached them and asked the time. At that point, he tried to expose himself, but they walked away. The report was the latest in a string of incidents involving a man exposing himself at the park.
- At 4:11 p.m., a Massachusetts Avenue resident reported someone used her identity and called Southeast Asia and the Middle East.
- At 5:32 p.m., police received a call from Robbins Library after someone stole a wallet off a desk.
- At 6:23 p.m., police responded to Dallin School after a report of children playing on construction equipment. An officer spoke to the children's parents.
- At 6:30 p.m., a Gardner Street resident reported someone stole a girl's 20-inch purple Mongoose bike from a backyard.

### Friday, July 23

- At 11:24 a.m., police received a call from Mill Street after someone stole an angel statue from a hallway.
- At 4:11 p.m., police received the first of three calls from Drake Road after a thief allegedly entered three

### Monday, July 19

- At 10:46 p.m., police arrested Prince Alsaud, 17, 62 Cambridge St., Winchester, and a juvenile and charged them with assault with a dangerous weapon. Police responded to Massachusetts Avenue concerning two young men threatening an Arlington resident with a baseball bat and stick. The victim identified the two teens and Officer Bryan Gallagher made the arrest.

### Thursday, July 22

- At 10:59 a.m., police arrested William L. Phillips, 35, 56 Huntington Road, and charged him with assault and battery. Officer Brandon Kindle made the arrest.

### Sunday, July 25

- At 3:50 a.m., police

unlocked motor vehicles. The suspect reportedly stole a Palm Pilot, wallet, credit card, driver's license and watch.

- At 7:59 p.m., a Pioneer Road resident called police after someone stole a 100-foot garden hose.

### Saturday, July 24

- At 3:38 a.m., a Massachusetts Avenue resident reported three motor vehicles' tires were slashed.
- At 5:24 a.m., police received a call concerning a naked man walking with a brown umbrella on Brattle Street. Police were unable to locate the man.
- At 6:14 a.m., a Palmer Street resident told police a bicycle was stolen from a front porch.

## Arrests

arrested Matthew L. Breault, 23, 64 Cedar St., Somerville, and charged him with larceny less than \$250, malicious destruction of property less than \$250 and disorderly conduct. Officer Gina Bassett responded to Chandler Street concerning a taxi fare dispute. The driver told police Breault jumped out of the cab without paying. Police searched the area and saw the Somerville man walking on Chandler Street. When police asked Breault to stop, he allegedly ran in several backyards until police found him in a Chandler Street yard. Bassett made the arrest. Later at the Community Safety Building, Breault allegedly destroyed a Police Department phone, smashing the receiver into several pieces.

- At 11:04 a.m., the Police Department received a call from Menotomy Rocks Park about a man who was camping. An officer spoke to the man who was a bicyclist and was only resting.
- At 1:34 p.m., a Wollaston Avenue resident called police after noticing a motor vehicle's window was smashed.
- At 1:45 p.m., a white rod iron bench was reported stolen off Massachusetts Avenue.

### Sunday, July 25

- At 12:01 a.m., police received a call from Massachusetts Avenue concerning a broken window pane.
- At 3:18 a.m., police recovered a motor vehicle, which had been stolen from Cambridge, on Massachusetts Avenue.

## Workshop for Spanish cable show scheduled

Comcast's community access channel will be hosting a studio production workshop on Tuesday, Aug. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Arlington Studio, 85 Park Ave., to train volunteers for the new Arlington Spanish Network elementary Spanish cable show.

Community members interested in participating in the Spanish cable project and other Comcast community access productions are welcome to attend. An Arlington Spanish Network meeting open to all will be held from 5-6 p.m. prior to the workshop.

E-mail or visit [www.ArlingtonSpanish.org](http://www.ArlingtonSpanish.org) for more information or call 781-777-1115 and leave your name and phone number to RSVP for the workshop. Space will be limited to the first 20 reservations.

## On-air talent is needed

Recording sessions for the Comcast community-access Spanish show are scheduled for every other Tuesday, starting Aug. 10.

If you are interested in having your K-5 children participate in the show, to be broadcast starting this fall on Comcast's community access Channel 8, please call 800-879-5693 or send an e-mail to [cableclass@arlingtonspanish.org](mailto:cableclass@arlingtonspanish.org)

Legal guardians must complete a release form.

## Meetings

### Tuesday, Aug. 3

- Patriots Day Celebration Committee meets at 7:30 a.m. in Bowes Realty, 1010 Massachusetts Ave.
- Historical Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the

Whittemore-Robbins House.

### Thursday, Aug. 5

- Conservation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Department of Public Works conference room, Town Hall Annex, second floor.

## Free Mystic River canoe trip planned on Aug. 12

Looking for a way to relax on a summer evening? Join other watershed residents for an evening paddle along the Mystic River.

Mystic River Watershed Association has two trips planned — Thursday, Aug. 12 and Thursday, Sept. 9. Each trip will meet at 6 p.m. at the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse (32 Shore Drive, Somerville — near Mystic Ave and Route 28).

They will canoe until dusk. In past years, canoers have been treated to sightings of herons, egrets, cormorants, kingfisher, turtles, and other wildlife.

The Aug. 12 trip is free and is

supported by the Alewife/Mystic River Advocates. Space is limited — so reserve early. (There will be a \$5 fee for the September trip.)

Please RSVP: John at [j.gillette@hotmail.com](mailto:j.gillette@hotmail.com) or 617-623-6137. (Please include a contact number in case organizers need to reach you, in the event of rain.) Directions are available at: 781-316-3438, [janet@mysticriver.org](mailto:janet@mysticriver.org) or [www.mysticriver.org](http://www.mysticriver.org).

The event is co-sponsored by the Alewife/Mystic River Advocates, Boys and Girls Club of Middlesex County and Mystic River Watershed Association.

## Children's defense program set for next month

Registrations are now being accepted for the r.a.d. KIDS summer programs (resist aggression defensively for children aged 5 up to 11 years of age).

r.a.d. KIDS is a comprehensive children's safety program that covers home safety, school safety, out-and-about safety, vehicle safety, stranger tricks, personal safety and defense

against abduction. Classes provide learning through instruction, role-playing and by practicing physical skills.

Classes will be held in Arlington, but are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Classes run in a summer "camp" format (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to noon). One remaining program will be run for 8 to 10 years (Aug. 9 to 13).

Cost \$110/child for the five-day (15-hour) program. Reduced fees for second or third child in the same family.

For more information, go to the Web site [www.indefense-boston.org](http://www.indefense-boston.org) or phone at 781-643-7353.

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# Parts of McClennen Park could be ready by fall

## Dog park still in question

BY ROBERTO SCALESE  
STAFF WRITER

McClennen Park is moving along on schedule and close to budget, said Director of Planning and Community Development Kevin O'Brien. Some uses should be available by the fall.

"We still expect them to have everything completed, including the fields and plantings, by the fall," said O'Brien of the site formerly known as Reed's Brook near the Lexington border on Summer Street. "I think some of the areas like the pathways could be used by the fall. People are already using them now."

The project has not been without its surprises. Recent tests showed build-ups of methane gas in storm basins, which had to be monitored and removed. O'Brien said that will be completed using

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds appropriated but not used in other projects.

"Next year, we'll probably be devoting more CDBG funds to complete the project," said O'Brien.

The dog run at the park remains a thorny issue. The Department of Environmental Protection has said the town must enter mediation with concerned Lexington neighbors who oppose the dog run's inclusion to the park. O'Brien said no sessions have been scheduled, but he hopes having a neutral third-party helps to identify common ground between the two sides.

"We have not had time to schedule a meeting," said O'Brien.

The skate park's concrete patch is nearly complete, said O'Brien. Obstacles will be built in the area to give boarders different options while in the space.

"It should be an exciting park. We've changed the design of the slab to make it

much more interesting," said O'Brien.

The area is also designed for future growth as skateboarders have vowed to fund raise for more and different obstacles in the area. The town met with boarders and a designer to develop a site that fits the scale of the project while providing users with what they want.

The project, estimated to cost more than \$7 million, should be completed by spring 2005, when teams can finally utilize the ball fields at the site. The area was formerly the town's dump. The trash and debris was capped as part of this project.

## CAPITOL THEATRE

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• THE NOTEBOOK (PG13)  
11:30; 2; 4:55; 7:25; 9:50  
• DE-LOVELY (PG13)  
11:40; 2:10; 5; 7:30; 10  
• DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY (PG13)  
11:25; 1:25; 3:25; 5:25; 7:20; 9:30  
• HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN (PG)  
1; 4; 7  
• THE CLEARING (R)  
9:45  
• ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND (R)  
5:40; 7:45; 9:55  
• TWO BROTHERS (PG)  
11:10; 1:20; 3:20  
• THE STEPFORD WIVES (PG13)  
5:30; 7:35; 9:40  
• GARFIELD (PG)  
11; 1; 3

11; 1; 3  
Saturday & Sunday, July 31 & Aug. 1  
• THE NOTEBOOK (PG13)  
11:30; 2; 4:55; 7:25; 9:50  
• DE-LOVELY (PG13)  
11:40; 2:10; 5; 7:30; 10  
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• GARFIELD (PG)  
11; 1; 3

Monday through Thursday, Aug. 2-Aug. 5  
• THE NOTEBOOK (PG13)  
11:30; 2; 4:55; 7:25; 9:50  
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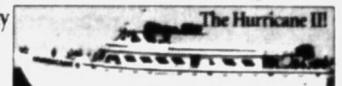
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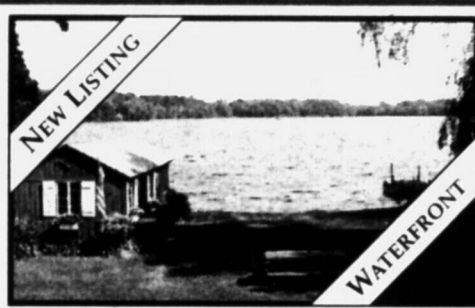
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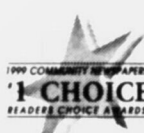
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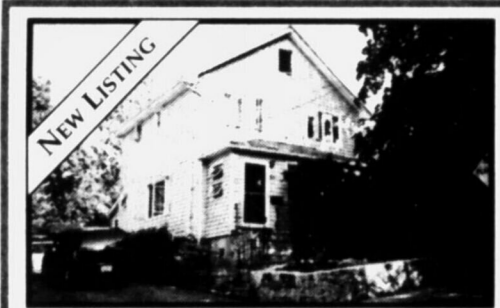
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# Focus ON HIGHER EDUCATION

## Reshaping math and science education is key to solving outsourcing problem

By Mahesh Sharma  
CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE

The migration of American jobs overseas is a hot issue, both politically and economically. Although the debate goes on as to how many American jobs have actually been lost to foreign outsourcing, most experts do agree that the number will likely accelerate in coming years.

Proponents maintain that outsourcing is healthy for the economy. Outsourcing creates new opportunities – relieving workers from labor-intensive jobs and creating opportunities for better-paying jobs in more efficient industries. Others condemn the practice, claiming that American companies do a disservice to their workers by finding cheaper labor overseas.

At first glance, offshore outsourcing would appear to be a substantial threat to the U.S. labor force. But in reality, outsourcing isn't the main problem we face. It's merely a symptom of an even more significant crisis in this country – the lack of an adequately educated workforce.

America has done a poor job of making mathematics and science accessible to its children and adults. As a result, genera-

tions of workers now lack the skills they need to become competent members of the efficient workforce. These young workers will miss out on job opportunities, fall short of requirements for college acceptance, find it difficult to graduate from post-secondary schools or transit easily from one job to the other.

According to government data, many of the fastest-growing occupations in the U.S. require strong math and science preparation, along with critical thinking skills and training beyond high school. Unfortunately, most high school students are not developing the skills required to compete in these fields or gain access to higher education. For instance, only 24 states require at least three years of math, and only 21 states require at least three years of science. Only nine of 100 ninth-grade students will complete an undergraduate education. And only two will achieve adequate competencies to cultivate the pool of future scientists and mathematicians. More schooling does not seem to be solving the problem either; fourth grade students score higher on assessment tests than their eighth- and tenth-grade

counterparts.

There are numerous reasons for this. Our country has an inconsistent and under funded public school curriculum. We are also in the unique position of having one of the most culturally diverse populations, with inherent wide-ranging levels of parental involvement.

Without a sufficiently skilled workforce, it's impossible to stay on the cutting edge of innovations in science and technology. Relieving employees from labor-intensive jobs in exchange for better-paying work is futile unless workers have essential skills. But at the same time, we must find a way to create a qual-

ified pool of scientists in order to remain on the cutting edge of technology. It's a complete circle of events that feeds upon itself.

Entrepreneurial spirit is the fuel of American innovation. Innovation and job creation are the foundations of American economy and its future. Innovation is accelerated by a constant and large supply of scientific knowledge. For instance, it takes approximately 12 years for a new mathematical concept to be converted into a usable process or idea. When a mathematician creates a new formula, the idea filters down to applied mathematics and physics within two to three years. Within four to five years, it reaches engineers and applied technologists.

A few years later, innovators and entrepreneurs capitalize on the idea, taking it to the marketplace and creating jobs.

The best tool for creating new jobs is a robust supply of first-rate mathematicians. Without adequate math and science training, our ability to create these jobs will continue to decline.

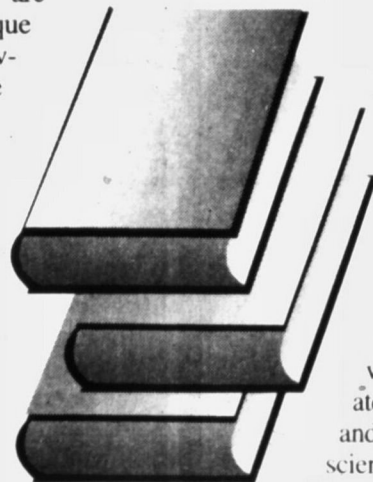
How do we provide our children with a superior math and science education? Change the way we teach. Raise expectations for our children. Provide them with additional educational support at home and school. In addition, we must find ways to improve the essential skills of working adults. Many do not have adequate writing, mathematical, or problem solving skills required for today's higher-paying jobs.

Reshaping mathematics instruction means taking into account the way a child processes information, as well as teaching basic math skills like estimation and pattern recognition – things traditional curricula

don't typically address today. Once children understand the fundamentals, they'll be more likely to understand why equations and formulas work. We need to use methods of teaching that help children learn mathematics more easily and thoroughly, but also increase their comfort level with mathematics. We can't expect first-rate learning of mathematics and science if we don't provide first-rate instruction.

The professional scientists and engineers of the future will thrive only with improved mathematics and science preparation today. Inadequate skills will create a shortage of young adults qualified to fill jobs in information technology, biotechnology, accounting, engineering, and finance. Finding a dearth of qualified applicants, it is only natural that companies will seek talent elsewhere and they'll find it overseas.

(Mahesh Sharma is president of Cambridge College, located at 1000 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge).



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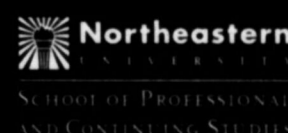
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# Focus ON HIGHER EDUCATION

## College program attracts teens

**B**EVERLY - On a recent Sunday, large groups of art students eager to unwrap painting supply kits and set up tripods moved into the quaint multi-family homes on Essex and Winter streets, the dormitories of Montserrat College of Art. They are not college students - yet. They are the high school students accepted to Montserrat's month-long Pre-College Program, and there are more of them this year - nearly 60 - than ever before.

The program, offered to high school juniors and seniors, as well as college freshmen, has grown in the past two years from 16 students in 2002 to 58 this year. Increased grant funding for scholarships, more course offerings and an extended program length, among other factors, account for the growth, according to President Stan Trecker.

"Pre-College is designed for high school students to develop

a portfolio for college admissions, evaluate career options and explore the visual arts while earning college credit," Trecker said.

In 2003, with grant money through Montserrat's Destination ART (DART) initiative, whose goal is to provide enrichment and pre-college courses to teenagers from economically disadvantaged circumstances, the college was able to fund five full need-based scholarships to eligible students from Beverly, Lynn, Peabody and Salem. This year, with more money to give away, Montserrat expanded the number of eligible communities and also offered partial scholarships so as to reach out to more students, some

from outside Massachusetts. Between the two years, more than \$30,000 was given away to 12 students.

"DART really helped the program prosper," said Doug Williams, who was director of the Pre-College Program from 1995 to last year, and is helping out this year.

Some changes include adding a week to make the program a full month long, which brings

the number of instruction hours from 90 to 120, and an expanded course selection. Now, in addition to courses in life drawing, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture, students can also study illustration and computer art.

The more variety, says current Director Lauren Young, the better.

"High school students who are thinking about art school want to be able to get a taste of everything," said Young. "Everyone has to take Life Drawing, but out of the other six subjects they choose three to focus on. So they receive intensive instruction in four subjects - all in one month."

Additionally, Williams, Young, and assistant Casey Baker, have added what they call their "personal touch" in the last couple of years. This includes telephoning every household weeks before the start of the program to quell concerns and answer questions, and providing in-depth tours of the school during visits. "Nearly everyone who gets a tour of the campus ends up coming to the program," said Williams.

Not only have the enrollment numbers increased in two years, but also the variety of geographic regions represented. Students came from six, mostly New England states in 2002; the following year, they came from 10 states, including Florida and Ohio. This year, they come from 13 different states that reach as far away as Illinois and Wisconsin.

"A lot of it is word of mouth," said Williams. "Students who come to the program and enjoy it will go back home and tell their friends about it. That's the best kind of marketing there is."

**"High school students who are thinking about art school want to be able to get a taste of everything."**

Lauren Young



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# FOCUS ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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## Online programs draw adult learners to higher learning

**CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**  
dean of graduate and continuing studies at FSC. This year, the college had 1,600 students enrolled in online classes.

"For us, it's really a formula for success," Castleman said. "In general, if we put a class online it will close (to new enrollment) because it fills up."

Students can complete entire master's programs without even stepping on campus, which can be appealing, she said.

"Adults, in general, like to take online classes," Castleman said. "They can take the class at 11 o'clock when the kids are in bed, and they don't have to drive to campus."

Students can earn a master's in curriculum and instructional technology, and certificate programs in instructional technology and nutrition are also available. Many more courses, from art to history and beyond, can be taken online at FSC.

Mass Bay Community Col-

lege, which has campuses in Wellesley and Framingham, offers a myriad of courses online, said Mary Becotte, executive director of college relations.

"There are hybrid courses where students meet a couple times in the classroom — one or two times in the beginning and one or two times at the end," Becotte said. "They benefit from sitting face to face with students and professor."

During the remainder of the course, students access material and do work on their computers. Mass Bay offers several subjects online, including anthropology, marketing, geography and history.

Mass Bay also offers a nursing program online, where coursework is done on online, but clinical training is done in person at Caritas Norwood Hospital.

"There is a huge need for nurses, and one of the limitations is space and time to train nurses," said Becotte, who added that on-

line classes eliminate the need for classroom space.

Students enrolled in Mass Bay, FSC or other public colleges have access to dozens of online course offerings at campuses across the state through a program called Massachusetts Colleges Online.

"If you want to take a literature course not offered at Mass Bay you can do them through Massachusetts Colleges Online, and get credit through Mass Bay," Becotte said.

Information and course listings are available on the Web at [www.mco.mass.edu](http://www.mco.mass.edu).

The online courses offered in Bentley College's graduate program in financial planning and taxation program allow students to get in-class experience without being on the Waltham campus, said Jack Lynch, an instructor who is also director of the program.

The classes, which are run in the late afternoons and evenings,

have some students who attend in person and others who watch via their computer.

"It's totally interactive," Lynch said. "It's like a broadcast over the Web."

Students can hear and see professors, and their own voices are broadcast back to the classroom so the instructor and students can hear. Teachers can display things they write on the board or slides from a Power Point presentation, Lynch said.

The number of online students is limited to 10, Lynch said, and the spots are filled quickly.

The technology requirements are not big, Lynch said, either in terms of equipment or knowledge.

"It's off-the-shelf stuff," he

said. "If you bought a computer in the last couple years (the equipment) is there. You need speakers and a microphone."

As for assignments, students taking the class remotely will type it up and send it in to the professor through the Blackboard software site for the class.

Nearby Brandeis University's continuing education program offers three master's degree programs, including one that can be completed online, said Sybil Smith, executive director of continuing studies at the Waltham campus. The software engineering program has a whole list of classes that can be taken on a computer. Master's degrees are also offered in project management or bioinformatics — a com-

bination of data analysis and biotechnology.

The courses offered online are modeled after classes taught in the classroom, Smith said.

Before students start the program, Smith said, Brandeis has an orientation and training program to complete so students get a feel for what the class will be like. The computer-based classes differ greatly from one taken on campus.

"It's very different from being in the classroom," Smith said. "It's not like in the classroom, except on TV."

The program has drawn a lot of interest, Smith said, and this year Brandeis had 265 students taking online courses, almost double the previous year.

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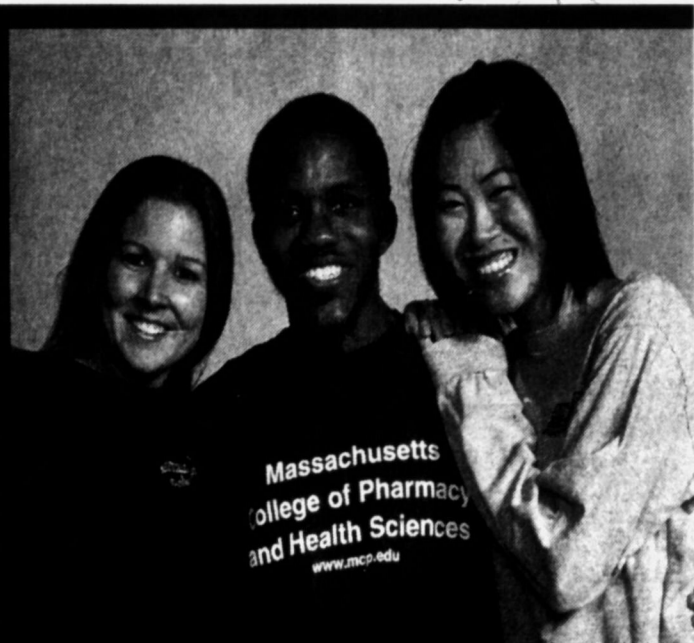
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# First Arlingtonian leads society

BY BROOKE LEISTER  
STAFF WRITER

While the Arlington-Belmont Choral was founded more than 30 years ago, conductor Barry Singer hopes to raise his group's profile within the Greater Boston community.

"Part of my mission is to get ourselves better known. That's an area we're looking at right now. We've started putting together a publicity plan," said Singer, who was recently named chorale conductor.

Singer is not a new face amongst chorale members. He joined the chorale and the Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus as a tenor in 1989 and was appointed conductor of the chamber chorus in 1994. He was named assistant conductor for the chorale in 2000. He spent a year as the chorale's interim conductor after John Bavicchi retired.

In 1973, the Chorale of the Philharmonic Society of Arlington and the Belmont Chorus merged under the baton of Bavicchi, a Newton resident. The group, as well as the chamber chorus, are part of the Philharmonic Society of Arlington, established in 1933.

Singer is the first Arlington resident to lead the groups.

"Being a resident and also having this position is really special. It's wonderful to make this my home and be able to make music here without the commute," said Singer, who lives in town with his wife, Betsy and two children.

Membership in the orchestra and the chorale is open to all musicians without formal auditions.

"It's definitely a learning experience. Many people have had some musical background, but not everyone has," Singer said. "I've been very lucky over the past few

**'Being a resident and also having this position is really special. It's wonderful to make this my home and be able to make music here without the commute.'**

BARRY SINGER

years working with the group we've had... If a person brings enthusiasm and intelligence to rehearsal, that goes a long way."

Between the three performing groups, the PSA's concert season includes seven shows in which the groups either perform individually or together. Fall and winter concerts include a Nov. 14 orchestra performance, a Dec. 3 chamber chorus concert and a Dec. 12 combined chorale and orchestra concert.

"There are community orchestra and community choruses, but not that many that combine both," Singer said. "It's a community group. We want to make sure no one feels overwhelmed and make sure the better singers feel challenged."

For Singer, music has been a constant in his life since he was a small child.

"My father at one point had set out to be a professional musician. There was always music in the house. The record player was always going... They loved classical

and jazz and then when the Beatles came along, they loved them too," he said.

Although piano and voice are his main instruments, Singer also plays the flute, assorted woodwind instruments, keyboard and string instruments. His performance experience encompasses symphony orchestras, choruses and choirs of all types, opera and contemporary musical theater — both on stage and in the orchestra pit, jazz groups and rock bands.

From 1983-1998, he sang with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, in numerous performances and recordings with the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops orchestras. He participated in the Boston Symphony's 1994 Far East Tour and sang with the multi-nation choral group, which opened the 1998 Winter Olympic Games.

The chorale has about 80 members, while the chamber chorus has about 20. The singers hail from communities including Acton, Concord, Arlington, Belmont and Bradford.

"One of the things I'm continuing that's really been an important part of both groups is we commission an original piece, usually from a local composer, each year," he said.

Besides leading the chorale and chorus, Singer is on the faculty at the Music Maker School in Acton and maintains a private teaching studio in Arlington.

For more information about the Philharmonic Society of Arlington visit <http://www.psarlington.org>.

# Local band kicks off Bluesfest

Geezer plays Chicago-style blues

BY BROOKE LEISTER  
STAFF WRITER

Bill Kuklinski is at the stage in his musical career where he can play the music he chooses and simply have fun with it.

"At this stage, you play what you want, as opposed to being in a wedding band and playing what other people want. Especially as you get older, it's better to play less. It's nice to go (into a club), play for an hour and relax and watch someone else," said Kuklinski, a 52-year-old guitar player from Danvers.

As a member of the Arlington-based band Geezer, he gets to do just that. The band plays Chicago-style blues, described as a hard-driving electric blues. The group has about 75 songs in its repertoire, about a third are original pieces.

The band will open the ninth annual Mohegan Sun Bluesfest, taking place Aug. 14 from noon to 9 p.m. at Bowditch Field in Framingham.

"It's a good gig. It's that simple," said Kuklinski, an associate director of information technology. "It's a chance to hear some other people play outdoors and play some good songs."

Since its founding in 1997, the band has played clubs and parties throughout New England. Members include Robin Hartman, vocals and blues harp; Kuklinski, guitar and vocals; Peter Hartman, bass; Lawrence Hoagland, guitar and vocals; and Ken Hummrich, drums.

The group has released two

CDs on the DNR label: "Live Slow, Die Old" (2000); and "Living Extra Large" (2002), which was recorded at Straight Up Music in Arlington.

"We like to say the collective performing experience of the band is just under 200 years," said Peter Hartman of Arlington.

Like the other band members, music has been a part of Hartman's life since he was younger.

"I've been playing since I was 15. It's part of my life — like breathing. This is the most compatible group I've played with. We're all on the same wavelength," he said.

Since joining the group five years ago, his brother, Robin, who is in telecommunications sales, said he's enjoyed the experience.

"We play a lot of original material, which I think is unusual for a blues band of our vintage. We're definitely a par-

ty band as opposed to a nostalgia act," said Hartman.

While neither brother would disclose their age, Peter, a writer for a small software company, described himself as "old enough to know better and young enough not to care."

With the upcoming Blues Fest, the band is excited about playing for a larger crowd and introducing more people to their music.

"We're excited about playing in front of a bigger crowd than a club, playing in front of people who have never heard us and spreading the Geezer gospel," Peter Hartman said.

And above all else, they plan to enjoy themselves.

"We do it primarily because it's about the most fun we can imagine," said his brother, a Wellesley resident.

For more information about Geezer, visit [www.geezerblues.com](http://www.geezerblues.com).



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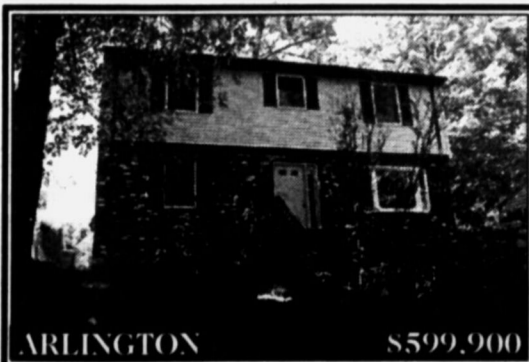


Dana Whiddon

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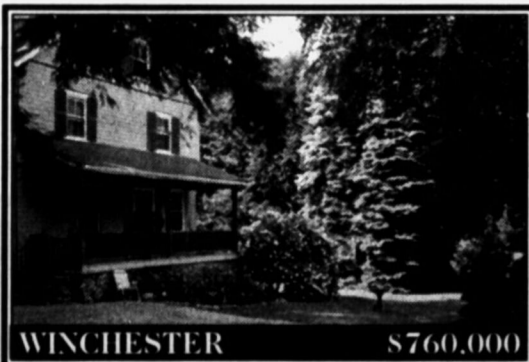
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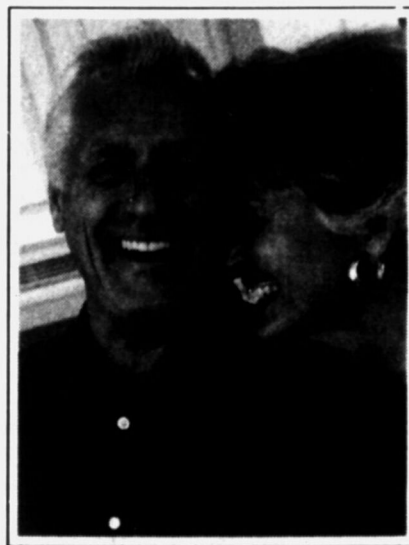
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## The Arlington Advocate

## Comment



## EDITORIAL

## Woodside Lane should stay open

Neighbors of the former Symmes Hospital are afraid a new project will make their streets a busy, dangerous cut-through for those avoiding Summer Street.

Many neighbors would like one of the two access points to the site closed (Woodside Lane). Woodside is on the backside of the Symmes site and leads to other side streets, including Oak Hill Drive.

Many residents in the neighborhood want the side street closed and all traffic forced to Hospital Road. The Advocate disagrees with the idea.

The added traffic on Hospital Road will make matters worse on Summer Street. Also, closing the road would block the new Symmes development from the rest of the neighborhood. This does not make for a cohesive community.

Preliminary traffic figures show traffic will actually decrease by more than 100 vehicles per day from what is currently the case. The reason? There will be residences on the hill, meaning slightly more traffic during smaller blocks of time, such as the morning and evening rush hours, but little any other time.

Jane Howard, a traffic consultant from Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, estimated only seven more cars on Woodside Lane during the peak morning hour (making 19 vehicles per hour) and eight more vehicles in the evening peak hour, increasing the number to 23.

If Woodside Lane is closed, she predicted Summer Street traffic would get worse. The Summer/Brattle/Hemlock/Hospital intersection would be "slightly worse" during peak times and Summer/Grove and Summer/Oak Hill would be "worse" during peak hours, according to Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates.

Howard said either opening or closing Woodside would not "have a huge impact either for good or worse," but recommended against funneling all the traffic from the site onto one road (Hospital).

Residents need to remember this finding is only preliminary. Before the project moves forward, the developer, EA Fish, and the Redevelopment Board will conduct their own more detailed traffic reports.

More in-depth studies could show opening Woodside would be disastrous. However, at this point, a consultant is recommending opening the side street. The Advocate believes that is the way to go.

## Letters to the editor policy

Do you have an opinion about a story you read? Do you disagree or agree with an editorial or another letter writer? Are you pleased or displeased about something?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, let your voice be heard and write a letter to the editor.

To be published, here is a quick idea of what we want:

Σ A signature, your street address and either a daytime phone number, home phone number, or both. We will not print the information — only your name, street name, and title (where applicable). We will not print anonymous letters.

Σ Letters should be limited to 400 words.

Σ We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, and civility. The Advocate respects differences of opinions, but we also demand respectful discourse.

Σ If we receive multiple letters on the same subject, we may run a sampling of opinion.

Σ The Advocate will not run letters from the same person in consecutive weeks.

Σ Letters must be dropped off at the Advocate drop box — Community Safety Building lobby, 112 Mystic St. — by noon Monday or delivered by 5 p.m. Monday to the office at 9 Meriam St., Lexington 02420.

Σ Readers can also fax their letters to 781-674-7735 by 5 p.m. Monday.

Σ E-mail is also an option at arlington@cnc.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Changes needed to voting

With the upcoming presidential election in November, it is time to reconsider how Arlington voters are given ballots at the polling stations.

As a lifelong Arlington resident and former poll worker, I am familiar with the procedure by which ballots are distributed. Residents give their address and name, are crossed off a list and are handed a ballot on which they vote.

This process would be fine if we all knew each other and could confirm that the person who says they are "John Doe" is indeed John Doe. However, in light of the debacle of the 2000 presidential election, how can we be so lax in our ballot distribution.

I, for one, would feel much more comfortable if the persons distributing the ballots asked for a picture identification before they distributed that all important piece of paper.

Just recently there was the case of a 17-year-old who voted in his father's name. Ultimately, he was found out and prosecuted for the offense. However, a simple safeguard, such as checking IDs, could help us all feel better about the protection of this cornerstone of our democracy.

I ask town officials to implement this procedure and to give voters fair warning a photo ID will be required to vote. Most other municipalities require voters to prove their identity, surely we can follow suit.

Elizabeth Dellanno  
Academy Street

### Provide safe havens

Reading The Arlington Advocate, I am inclined to agree with the letter-writer

("Supports Baby Haven Law" July 22).

You know and I know this is what the police do... they ask questions. So why would a young teenager go to a police station to give her baby up, when she knows she would be arrested?

My suggestion would be to train citizens of the town to do this. Give them a one-week course and to let them know the responsibilities of such a situation and to have 911 so they can call, but not while the person is there.

Years ago, they had parents volunteer for safe homes in case children were in trouble. We would put this paper in our windows or doors so a child in distress could come to a home. It was never utilized, but at least children were aware of it.

Why not do the same thing. People in designated areas can be provided with diapers, blankets and bottles if need be... and training. As soon as the baby was left, then 911 would be called.

I would be happy to accommodate anyone in need.

Stella Tonry  
Park Avenue

### Clarifies statement

I stated in my previous letter ("Critical of Marzilli's stance," July 15 Advocate) that Mr. Marzilli was present at the Arlington High School graduation ceremonies. I thought I saw him there, but he has informed me he wasn't. I was probably mistaken.

I wondered why he was pursuing this rather trivial complaint and at the time I wrote the letter, I thought he would be unopposed for reelection. I have since found out a Republican candidate is running a write-in campaign and Marzilli will very probably be opposed in the general election.

Frederick J. Sennott Jr.  
Brattle Street

## Matthew is a friend, family member

Well, the Boston Public Garden doesn't have cygnets this year — but Spy Pond boasts three, carefully chaperoned by Mama (or Papa?).

Other birds may be on their second brood by now. Years ago when my nephew, now a six-footer, was a toddler, the family came to visit about this time of year. (This was when my mother used to keep our feeder filled year-round.)

A few days after they left, the male cardinal, who had been a regular visitor to the feeder, started showing up with a fledgling whose plumage began to sport a tinge of red before too long. We noticed the little boy and the little bird had a lot in common: both were adorable, roly-poly Daddy's boys with bottomless appetites. So we named the latter after the former and started calling him Matthew.

After the old bird died, a sleek young male took over the feeder. We took it for granted he was Matthew. He got into the habit of sitting on the maple tree near the feeder and calling "tik-tik-tik." When my mother heard the call, she would hasten to fill the feeder. We used to joke about who had whom well trained.

### Birding in Arlington

ELIZABETH KARPATI

One day, my mother saw our neighbor's mother, Mae, sitting in their back yard and went over to chat with her. Soon a loud "tik-tik-tik" resounded from high in the maple.

"He wants his lunch," said Mae.

"OK, Matthew. I'm coming," my mother called loudly.

Matthew flew down to the lowest and closest branch as my mother hurried out to the street, around the corner and into and through our house. She filled the feeder and as she was pulling the door closed, Matthew was already flying toward the food.

Mae watched from the neighboring yard and laughed. We used to say we only paid the taxes on the house; the real owner was a handsome fellow in a red coat who graciously allowed us to live there as long as we paid him rent in sunflower seeds.

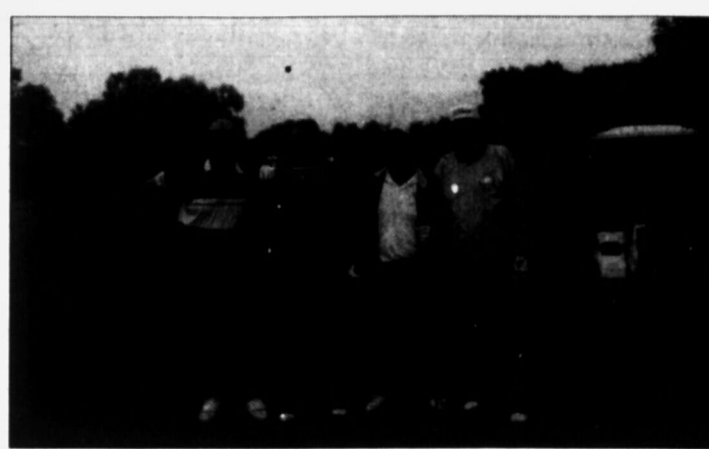
On another occasion, we had been repotting houseplants in the middle of

the back yard. We carried some of the newly potted plants into the house, then headed out to get the rest, but had to pause in the doorway. Matthew was out there hopping around among the plants, pots and supplies of potting soil. Apparently he had recognized his provider of daily food and was investigating whether she had left any tasty tidbits for him among all that stuff.

Since then, probably several generations of Matthews have come and gone, without forming such a personal relationship with the unfeathered residents as did the original. Late last summer, one day I heard a particularly insistent and persistent "zizizi, zizizi" coming from under the rhododendrons. There was the current Matthew, surrounded by three fledglings, frantically trying to keep two of them fed while the third was nonchalantly helping himself.

I couldn't help thinking Matthew must be counting the hours (in whatever way cardinals count) until his last two offspring reached the maturity level of his firstborn.

Elizabeth Karpati is an Arlington resident and a birder. Birding in Arlington appears each month in The Advocate.



Arlington resident George Arena, second from right, with friends during the Kidney Transplant/Dialysis Association Inc.'s seventh annual Charity Golf Tournament.

### Thanks those who supported event

I am writing to offer the thanks of the members and officers of the Kidney Transplant/Dialysis Association Inc., for those who helped sponsor our seventh annual Charity Golf Tournament, held July 19 at the Sandy Burr Golf Club Wayland.

As the KT/DA pays no salaries or rents, be assured that the entire amount of people's contributions will be used for projects that directly assist kidney dialysis and transplant patients.

The event was a great success. The service from Sandy Burr and Firefly's Bar-B-Que was great. Over 50 prizes were raffled off after dinner. Everyone present reported having a wonderful time.

Those who helped include Kalivas Insurance Agency, Doukakis & Corsetti Insurance Agency, Santini Construction Inc., Water Street Development Co., Holovak & Coughlin Sporting Goods, Retired Men's Club of Arlington, Arlington Sons of Italy, Arlmont Associates, A&A Deli, Fitness First, Cambridge Savings Bank, CH2M Hill Environmental Engineers, Bar-B-Que Barn, Leone and Leone Attorneys at Law, Bonnell Ford, Pat Oppedisano, Fitness First, Pat Mattchen, George Buckley and Valerie Gould.

The tournament was a financial success raising more than \$7,000 for the KT/DA, and thanks to the generosity, many more needy patients will be helped through our Patient Assistance Program, our Scholarship Program, and others. Once again our thanks for the generous support.

George Arena  
Co-chairman

Kidney Transplant/Dialysis Association Inc.

### Leone is Shadow's buddy

The front-page article in the July 15 Advocate regarding Shadow the cat was a well-deserved tribute to Shadow ("Shadow has as many homes as lives: Feline is a cat of the people").

Unfortunately, when the Advocate reporter visited the Senior Center, a person who has been a valuable volunteer at the center for four years and who is the most important person to Shadow there was on her summer vacation.

Elda Leone is met by Shadow at her vehicle very early

■ SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

## The Arlington Advocate

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